

REV. SERIES 2

EPISODE 1

by

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JUNE 2011

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1 **EXT. NUNNERY. DAY 1 (1203) - DAY**

1

Establish. Peace. Quiet. Sense of timelessness.

A nun tending the garden, and from one of the buildings, the sound of elderly (unseen) nuns singing a plainsong psalm.

2 **INT. NUNNERY: COLONNADE. DAY 1 (1204) - DAY**

2

ADAM sits alone on a simple bench against a stone wall. An ancient space of calm.

ADAM prays.

ADAM (PRAYER V.O.)

It's so wonderful to have some time
in this sanctuary. This place of
silence. To leave the clamour and
the chaos behind and be available
to something greater than myself.
To you, dear Lord.

He yawns widely.

ADAM (PRAYER V.O)

I wonder what's for lunch today.
Hope it isn't that strange
cauliflower cheese again. Nope,
come on, holy thoughts.

ADAM walks along the tiled colonnade. His shoes are very squeaky in the silence.

ADAM (PRAYER V.O)

Everlasting God in whom we live and
move and have our being. You have
made us for yourself and our hearts
are restless until we rest in you.
These shoes are very squeaky.

He passes an elderly NUN coming the other way. They share a solemn, silent nod.

ADAM (PRAYER V.O)

I love the fact that this is a
silent order and I don't have to
talk to her.

3 **EXT/INT. NUNNERY: BUNGALOW. DAY 1 (1227) - DAY**

3

A bungalow in the nunnery grounds. Frugal room. Functional wooden desk. Bookshelf with Religious hardbacks. Simple Christian icons. It could be any time in last 60 years.

ADAM stands happily at the window looking out at a peaceful garden. Apple trees and bird song.

He enjoys the silence a while. Just the sound of the birds.

He catches glimpses of a serene wimple or Nun's sandal moving noiselessly amongst the foliage outside.

ADAM (PRAYER V.O)

Look at this beautiful place. I
feel more at peace here than I have
for years.

Which is suddenly broken by a loud rapping on the window.

ROLAND WISE has burst into frame. Waves a bottle of single malt in one hand - and does a little party jig.

ROLAND

Retreat!

ADAM tries to turn his face of surprise into an expression of hello delight - aware it's a silent Order.

ADAM (SILENTLY)

Hello Roland.

4 INT. NUNNERY: BUNGALOW/DOOR. DAY 1 (1228) - DAY 4

ADAM opens the door...

ROLAND

Dear boy. I've just arrived. I'm
staying in the kennel next door.

ADAM mouths - oh great.

ROLAND

What's your place like? Mine's got
death camp chic.

ROLAND pushes inside with his bottle. ADAM follows him.

ROLAND

I normally go to that Benedictine
chateau in Provence - but word's
out on that, it's fully booked this
year. Bastards. What DVDs have you
got? I've got Diarmaid's History of
Christianity.

Holds up that DVD box. Then fans out another from behind it.

ROLAND

Or The Killing.

ADAM tries to mime that he doesn't have anything.

ROLAND

Are you alright?

ADAM

Are we allowed to talk now?

ROLAND

Yes, yes. It's a Lesser silence
till 6 o'clock. Not a Greater one.

ADAM

Oh right. I thought it was a
Greater one now. I don't really
watch telly while I'm here.

ROLAND

What have you brought to eat?

ADAM

(reluctantly admits to)
A couple of Kit Kats.

ROLAND

Okay. I've got some Assam tea.
Cheese. Two hard, one soft, one
goat. Pickles. Chutneys. Potted
goose meat. Iberico ham. And a
gooseberry cheesecake.

ADAM

Sounds like a hamper.

ROLAND

It is a hamper. We shouldn't be
doing this here though, should we?

ADAM

Eating a hamper?

ROLAND

No. Skulking away for a week. We
should be out there. In the
community. Making a mark. Spreading
the word. Telly, radio, twitter;
the lot.

ADAM

Yes. Yes.

ROLAND

The Church is never front foot
enough. Too much praying not enough
action.

ROLAND rudely looks in ADAM's case. Pulls out DVD box sets.

ROLAND

Ooh - 'Wallander' and 'Prison Break
Season 2'. What have you brought to
drink? I've got a couple of nice
Rieslings. And a Pic Saint Loup.

ADAM hesitates - then he goes to his case. Produces two bottles...

ADAM
Gin and tonic. Or vodka and tonic.

ROLAND
We may just survive this.

From the silence of the Nunnery SLAM TO:

5 **EXT. HACKNEY STREET. DAY 2 (0957) - DAY**

5

Noise. Car horns. Tarmac drilling. ADAM pacing towards the school. In a hurry. Late. His pacing becomes a jog.

The traffic of life's against him. He weaves on the pavement to get past a double pram MUM and skip a puddle of vomit.

ADAM
Excuse me.

Dodges an over-aged 30-something skateboarder on a cell phone. Now there's a SCALLY MAN on a lady's bike on the pavement...

ADAM steps out into the road to get a clearer path... nearly gets run over... LOUD HORN... he jumps back.

6 **EXT. STREET/SCHOOL. DAY 2 (0959) - DAY**

6

ADAM nearing the school gates. Puffing. Sweaty now.

A YOUNG TEEN (14) is running fast up the pavement behind him (holding a handbag), towards A BUS that's pulling up.

ADAM moves to avoid a dog poo, into the path of the running TEEN... ADAM half turns... manages to raise both palms before the two of them collide... they go crashing down together...

Owh. ADAM lifts the TEEN up.

ADAM
I'm so sorry, are you OK? My fault.

The TEEN looks wildly at ADAM. ADAM sees the bus doors are opening.

ADAM
C'mon, if you rush you can get it.

The TEEN breaks hard from ADAM, for the bus. ADAM watches him jump on just in time.

ADAM
Well done.

TEEN THIEF

Paedo.

The TEEN gives ADAM the finger as the BUS pulls away.
ADAM pulls a fatalistic grimace. Another day in London.

Behind ADAM - ADOHA picks up the handbag that the TEEN dropped when he collided with ADAM. Clearly upset...

ADOOHA

Adam....

ADAM looks at her, perplexed.

ADAM

Hello Adoha. You okay?

ADOOHA

That little bastard snatched my bag
from me...

Holds bag up.

ADAM

Oh I see.

ADOOHA

Thank you so much. You're so brave.

ADAM

No, I'm not.

ADOOHA

Yes you are.

ADAM

No.

ADOOHA

Yes.

ADAM

It was an accident.

ADOOHA

This bag has my life in it.

ADAM

Ha. All those credit cards. And a
hairbrush.

ADOOHA

You saw it happen, you grabbed him,
you wrestled him to the ground.

ADAM

No. I'm just rushing to the school.

ADOHA

Yes you did. Do you think I'm okay?

ADAM

I think so.

ADOHA

Have a look at me darling.

Seeking his look and touch. She spins a turn for him.

ADAM

Yes. I'm looking. I think you look okay. You look very okay.

ADOHA

You're my hero.

She pulls him in for a hug.

7

INT. SCHOOL: ELLIE'S OFFICE. DAY 2 (1012) - DAY

7

ADAM and ELLIE.

ADAM

The problem is they've got nothing to do, these kids. Have they? There's nothing to inspire them.

ELLIE

(defensive)

Are you talking about my kids?

ADAM

No not your kids. Yes your kids. When they're at school, it's fine of course, their time's full. But outside school, what do they do? Just this...

He frantically mimes being on a gaming console.

ADAM

Or they go bag snatching off old ladies. I'm going to do a trip to the country.

ELLIE

Is this what you came up with on holiday?

ADAM

I wasn't on holiday. It was a retreat.

ELLIE

I'm glad you caught some sun.

ADAM

I didn't catch sun. One of your kids, from the Moorfield estate, told me he'd never been outside London. In his life. Isn't that terrible?

ELLIE

Yes.

ADAM

Some of these kids have never seen cows.

ELLIE

They've seen a cow Adam.

ADAM

No they haven't. Some of them haven't. There was a survey that said that inner city kids think that eggs come from cows. They have no idea what cheese is. Or where their food comes from.

ELLIE

Chicken Cottage.

ADAM

We'll do a trip to the seaside.

ELLIE

Are there cows there?

ADAM

There will be cows on the way. We'll go to the White Cliffs of Dover.

ELLIE

Oh suicidal cows?

ADAM

It's a natural wonder. It will give them a sense of British history... they might even see France. Come on. This is what I'm here for. Let's do it.

ELLIE

Are you trying to whisk me off to the seaside?

ADAM

What?

ELLIE

To get me on the back seat?

ADAM

No, no, no.

He laughs badly... then recovers his serious purpose.

ADAM

We'll take your 15 most difficult
but deserving children.

ELLIE

I don't think you have any idea
what it is you're taking on. I've
got an 11 year-old who was just
done for twocking on Saturday.

(ADAM tuts, shakes his
head)

And I suspect you don't even know
what that is.

ADAM

Of course I know what twocking is.

He doesn't.

8

INT. VICARAGE: BATHROOM. DAY 3 (0734) - DAY

8

ALEX sits on the loo and looks at a pregnancy test strip.

The latest negative result. She looks up at God...

ALEX

Thank you very much.

ADAM (O.O.V SHOUT)

Have you seen my dog collar?

9

INT. VICARAGE: LIVING ROOM. DAY 3 (0738) - DAY

9

ADAM gathering docs for the day in his usual rush... looking
for his dog collar under papers... on chairs... under an
empty cereal bowl.

ALEX enters.

ADAM

It would be really great if you did
come on this trip because... I need
another adult to make up numbers.
And you've already been CRB
checked.

ALEX

Oh you charmer.

ADAM

It would be a nice way for us to
spend a day by the seaside.

He's pleased to find his dog collar under a DVD box.

ALEX

It's 'a way' for us to spend a day
by the seaside, it's not a 'nice
way'.

ADAM spots a small smear on the dog collar white.

ADAM

Is that ketchup?

ALEX

I can't take a day off work.

ADAM

Er... Well you don't need to. It's
on Saturday. The 3rd.

ALEX

Not content with having a holiday
(corrects herself)
- sorry being "on retreat" -
you've now decided you'd like to
spend the one day a week we have
together in a shit bit of Kent with
15 of other people's children? Do
you know the last time I got to
have a weekend with you Adam, all
to myself?

ADAM goes no.

ALEX

No, neither do I. Why is that? Oh
yes that's right - because it's
NEVER HAPPENED.

ADAM

I'm sorry. What's the matter?

ALEX

What's the matter? I'm fed up of
never seeing you. That's what's the
matter.

ADAM

Listen Alex...

ALEX

I'm fed up with your congregants
saying to you...
(assumes snidey voice)

ALEX (cont'd)

... "what a shame Alex couldn't make it today," like they're got some Masters degree in passive aggression, just because I happened to be busy at work. I'm fed up with coming back from work and then having to make yet another mushroom stroganoff for a sodding church meeting of pedantic bores - who want to sit around for four hours in my home discussing how to put in some fire exits or whatever...

ADAM

No. (Well...)

ALEX

I want to have a child with you because I don't just want to be a solicitor my whole life, but you don't shag me enough...

ADAM

No, now that's not... Is that?
That's not true.

He's slipped away into the kitchen for something - still listening.

ALEX

It is - because this house is permanently full of people who make unceasing demands on your time because they've got nothing else in their lives. Except a need to organise the latest church event - some wank fete thing that I have to make sponge fingers for - because your world is obsessed with correlating excruciating social events with religious devotion.

Pause.

ADAM re-enters from the kitchen - he's put a beanie on his head and is wearing one yellow marigold glove on his right hand. For comic/clown effect the second marigold glove is sticking out the side of his hat.

AdaM

Have you seen the other glove?

She chortles with a mix of love and despair.

ALEX

I'm no good at making sponge fingers Adam. And I don't find it fulfilling.

ALEX (cont'd)

Yes I'll come on your cocking trip
to Kentish hell because at least
that way I get to see my gorgeous
husband for a few hours. Lucky me.

10

INT. CHURCH: VESTRY OFFICE. DAY 3 (0932) - DAY

10

ADAM and NIGEL. ADAM being dynamic about his plans. NIGEL's got a copy of Metro, and is smiling due to something in it.

ADAM

Come on, it'll be easy. We'll hire
a minibus, chuck the kids in. Off
we go.

NIGEL

Chuck the kids in - fasten their
seat belts - off we go. Is this
because you're a hero now?

NIGEL shows him a page of the paper. An article banner says
'KUNG FU VICAR KICKER.'

NIGEL

Accosting London's bag thieves. I
must say - I didn't think you had
it in you.

ADAM

What's this?

Under the banner is a grainy CCTV shot of ADAM colliding with the TEEN in Sc 1. The way ADAM's frozen - holding up his palms - makes it look like he's accosting the THIEF. There's also a portrait of ADOHA smiling, like it's her birthday.

NIGEL

Defending your parishioners.
Apprehending feral scum. You're the
Big Society in action.

ADAM

(laughs at the article)
This is ridiculous. This isn't
what happened. This is nonsense.
(quite likes it though)
I want to talk about this trip to
Dover.

NIGEL

On come the red underpants. Is this
what you came up with on your
holiday this year?

ADAM

It's not a holiday. It's a retreat.
They can see the seaside.

ADAM (cont'd)

The White Cliffs. The Channel. This is gospel work. It's incarnational.

NIGEL

They'll go shop lifting and take drugs.

ADAM

No they won't. What's twocking? Do you know what twocking is?

NIGEL

Oow, it's something unpleasant and sexual to do with bacon isn't it? They certainly won't be allowed to do that on the trip. There's a huge number of child protection and Health & Safety considerations to this idea. Otherwise children can end up lost, or having sex with each other or with allergic reactions.

ADAM

Well what considerations? Come on, let's go through them.

NIGEL takes a breath. Where to start?

NIGEL

For a start the Diocese requires that a Child Advocate is appointed.

ADAM goes - what?

NIGEL

Someone the children can talk to should any "issues" arise with someone connected to the church.

ADAM

Oh I see. Yes because as a vicar I'm likely to take them all the way to Dover just so I can stick my hands down their pants, aren't I?

NIGEL flummoxed by ADAM's blasé mention of the unmentionable.

NIGEL

Well if you do... the children need an appointed, respected member of society they can talk to about it afterwards.

ADAM

Okay, great let's appoint one. As long as they're not too annoying.

On cue ADOHA enters with urgent excitement THE METRO in hand.

ADOHA

Adam my hero. Look - now everybody knows what a hero you were.

ADAM

I wasn't.

She ruffles his hair. Hugs his head.

NIGEL

It's inspiring isn't it? Come Christmas there will be little Adam action vicar dolls.

They're both grinning at ADAM with admiration.

ADAM

(enjoying being admired)
I simply did what anyone would have done.

ADOHA

So modest. That's why I've put you up for the Pride of Britain award.

ADAM

What? Have you? (Hang on.)

ADOHA

A vicar has never won it before.

11

EXT. BENCH. DAY 3 (0956) - DAY

11

ADAM takes a fag from COLIN.

COLIN

Can I be involved with your trip?
Please. I love the seaside me.
Maybe if I'd seen the seaside when I was a kid my life wouldn't have been so shite.

ADAM

Okay. Um. Let me think about how.

COLIN

It would be really good for my CV.

Beat. They smoke.

COLIN

Have you thought how I can be involved yet?

ADAM

Sorry, no I was just thinking how sad it is that our culture has become so obsessed by its fears that organising a kids' trip is now a health and safety nightmare.

COLIN

Except if it was a Catholic trip to the seaside we'd be right to be scared. Because after lunch all the kids would get the brown glove treatment in the sand dunes from the pervy priests.

(ADAM frowns disapproval)

Can I be a driver? Of the minibus?

ADAM

Have you got a driver's licence?

COLIN

Yeah. I've got an HGV.

ADAM

Have you?

COLIN

Yeah, three years I drove haulage round Europe. A huge truck. Real fanny magnet. So long as the kinda fanny you like hangs out in Italian service stations at 3am with a massive adam's apple.

ADAM

Okay Colin, if you've got a clean licence let me think about it.

COLIN

Great. Magic. I'll do whatever you want. I want to give something back. Even though I never got anything.

12

INT. NIFTY SHOP. DAY 3 (1043) - DAY

12

ADAM buys a pack of fags from apathetic LISA, on her phone.

LISA (ON PHONE)

I ain't babysitting him again. He's only seven, he's already a sex pest.

LISA scans the fags, takes his coins like it's some big chore - then she realises who she's serving. Her face lights up.

LISA

Oh you're that hero. You're the hero!

ADAM surprised. Liking the attention.

LISA

(into phone)
Shelley there's a hero here.
(hangs up)

ADAM

Oh thanks. No, not really.

LISA

You are. If all vicars were like you I'd come to church. We need people like you.

ADAM

Oh... well...

LISA

Beating up the scum. My Mum is going to be so jealous I saw you. Will you sign my paper?

ADAM sets about signing her paper like he gets this a lot.

LISA

This is the best day of my life.

She gives him his change... and in addition a kid's lolly from a tub by the till.

LISA

Here - go on - have a free lolly.
Really. For being a have a go hero.

ADAM

Thanks Lisa. See you tomorrow.

He stops by the door. Sticks the lolly in his mouth. As a joke...

ADAM

I'm just off to close down a criminal gang's hideout.

LISA

(noise of awe)
Good luck.

15 KIDS sit on the floor in rows. The 15 lucky day-trippers. ELLIE and ADOHA at the side. ADAM in front of the KIDS.

ADAM
Who's looking forward to our trip
to Dover? Hands up.

No hands go up. ADAM a bit thrown, tries to sell it.

ADAM
Hands up who's never been to the
seaside before?

No hands go up.

ELLIE
Hands up who's seen a cow?

All the hands go up. ADAM gives her a withering look.

ADAM
Well you can see some more on
Saturday. And see if they lay eggs.
We're going to see the White
Cliffs. They have an incredible
history. They're a natural wonder.

A girl's hand goes up. COURTNEY; 10 years old. ADAM nods -

COURTNEY
Can we go shopping there?

ADAM
No. It's a cliff.

KIDS moan.

COURTNEY
Is it outdoors?

ADAM
Um. Yes - it's outdoors.

COURTNEY
I hate outdoors. Unless it's
inside, like at Bluewater.

CHLOE
And cows stink. Is it going to
stink this trip?

The KIDS start laughing. ADAM continues to be positive...

ADAM
No it won't. It'll be great. A day
without your TV and games. (With
some military history...)

The KIDS moan. Kicking the enthusiasm from under him.

ADAM

Well I'm looking forward to it. Now
a lady called Adoha is going to
talk to you.

ADAM steps aside, joins ELLIE.

CHLOE

I'm not going on this stupid trip.
You can't make me.

ELLIE

Chloe!

ADOHA

Hello children. My name is Adoha.

ADOHA takes the front all self-importance and maternal pride.

COURTNEY puts her hand up straight away. ADOHA nods - yes?

COURTNEY

Are you a man?

14

EXT/INT. STREETS/TAXI. DAY 3 (1417) - DAY

14

ADAM and the ARCHDEACON travelling London.

ARCHDEACON

I gather you want to show some
children a cow?

ADAM

It's a trip to the White Cliffs of
Dover.

ARCHDEACON

They'll have seen cows Adam.

ADAM

Some of Ellie's kids live five to a
bedroom. They've got two unemployed
parents...

ARCHDEACON

Is this because you're a hero now?
Pulling on tight Spandex at night,
slipping out the bedroom window,
and accosting rough men in dark
alleyways? They won't come to
church afterwards you know. And
you'll have to CRB check every
adult involved.

(how tiresome)

ADAM

I know. I'm doing that.

ARCHDEACON

Then I'll have to go through the
CRB checks with Graham.

ADAM

Graham?

ARCHDEACON

The Diocesan Safeguarding
Management & Risk Assessment Panel
Group Officer. Who's a quite
stunningly dull man. He makes Nigel
look like Bear Grylls.

ADAM

Huh, Bear Grylls.

ARCHDEACON

Who's on this trip?

ADAM

Me and Alex...

Following is fast overlapping.

ARCHDEACON

Alex.

ADAM

Nigel.

ARCHDEACON

Nigel.

ADAM

Ellie.

ARCHDEACON

Ellie.

ADAM

Adoha

ARCHDEACON

Adoha.

ADAM

And maybe Colin.

On hearing COLIN's name the ARCHDEACON laughs...

ARCHDEACON

I'm sure Graham will turn him down.
He always does if there's even the
 slightest whiff of anything
improper.

ADAM

All a criminal record check proves is that a person hasn't been caught, that's all. I'd rather trust my instincts, over some police report compiled by some pencil pusher whose job it is to always say no.

ARCHDEACON

Oh well thank goodness, society can relax - we've got Adam's instincts to rely on. How wonderful. We should send you around all the schools and hospitals so you can tell us who you trust. I'm going to let you out here because I'm finding you incredibly annoying.

ADAM looks out - they're in a long, subterranean traffic tunnel - heavy traffic bangs past.

ADAM

Is it safe here?

ARCHDEACON

Trust your instincts.

15

EXT. TAXI/TUNNEL. DAY 3 (1418) - DAY

15

The TAXI pulls over and ADAM finds himself dumped in the middle of the tunnel. No sign of light in either direction. Fumes. Fast cars.

16

INT. CHURCH. DAY 4 (1003) - DAY

16

End of the service. Regulars in, including ALEX.

ADAM

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

(he leads the congregation in with the response)

In the name of Christ Amen.

NIGEL clicks on the final processional music from the CD player, but it suffers interference from a minicab radio system. ADAM processes up the central aisle, head bowed. He gets to the main entrance, turns and sees ADOHA click off the music - then take the front.

ADOHA

Ladies & Gentlemen I have an announcement to make. Adam! Adam darling, can you come back this way?

Everyone's stayed in their pews for this, all heads turned to him. ADAM heads back towards ADOHA, performing a meek smile.

He gives ALEX a quizzical look. She smiles knowingly.

ADOHA

You have always been a hero to me.
I'm proud to say that soon everyone
will know that you're the bravest
vicar in the world. My nephew's
internet campaign has worked - I'm
delighted to announce that you are
shortlisted for the Pride of
Britain award, for your heroic
actions in bringing criminals to
justice. Congratulations darling.

ADOHA goes to him for a congratulatory kiss. The congregation cheer. A banner with ADAM's CHEESY GRINNING HEAD and 'OUR HERO' is brought out. ALEX - beaming.

ADOHA's family - nephews and cousins - bring ADAM flowers like he's an opera star, and a bottle of champagne.

They pose for a PHOTO. Behind the flowers ADAM assumes a face of public humility, to cover his liar's heart.

17

INT. VICARAGE: LIVING ROOM. DAY 4 (2036) - NIGHT

17

ADAM's dealing with a monster pile of trip admin. ALEX is looking at the Pride of Britain nominations and info.

ALEX

Wow. Have you seen the Pride of Britain nominations? People do some amazing things don't they? A partially sighted salesman saved an infant from a burning car wreck, and has now adopted the orphaned boy. He's in your category.

ADAM

Let me see.

He takes the list - feeling increasingly sick with shame. Meanwhile she looks at the press release.

ALEX

There's going to be lots of important people there. Richard Curtis of course. Sam Cam. Andrew Strauss. Carol Vorderman is hosting.

ADAM

(reading the noms list)

A girl with meningitis confronted a burglar, despite having no arms.

ALEX

I'm really looking forward to it. A night out with my hero husband.

ADAM

I can't go to this. I don't deserve it.

ALEX

Yes you do.

ADAM

No. Not compared to these people. You've got to understand... This incident's been blown out of all proportion.

ALEX

Think of all the things that you do that go unnoticed. Think of this as a prize for all that as well. This has made me realise - I don't support you enough sometimes.

ADAM

No you do.

ALEX

I don't. I've been meaning to say; I'm sorry. When I was ranting about your job this week.

ADAM

That's alright.

ALEX

I was in a bad mood.

Beat. They both know why. It doesn't need naming.

ALEX

I'm really proud of you darling. Not just for this award. For everything you do. I'm even looking forward to your trip to Dover.

ADAM bangs the paperwork that's confronting him.

ADAM

Assuming I can get 45 parental consent, Health & Safety and Day of Departure forms signed.

He shakes his head at the madness of the bureaucracy. He picks up COLIN's CRB report.

ADAM

And I've got to tell the one person who wants to come that they can't. Colin's CRB report is in. 39 entries. Including convictions for sexual harassment, obscene phone calls and attempted kidnap on just one weekend.

She's studying him in an amused and intense way.

ALEX

Now you're my hero you're more physically appealing to me than ever before.

ADAM

Ha. You've got to understand I didn't do anything. That's what I'm trying to say.

ALEX

Yeah, why don't you come and "not do anything to me" over here.

ADAM

No I really didn't Alex.

ALEX

Shut up and take your pants off.

18

EXT. CHURCH: BENCH. DAY 5 (1104) - DAY

18

ADAM and COLIN having a fag. ADAM listing COLIN's crimes.

ADAM

Sexual harassment, obscene phone calls and attempted kidnap.

COLIN

I was in love Adam. What can I say? She drove me a bit nuts. You know what women are like. But that doesn't matter for this trip because it wasn't an offence with a child. Mandy was in her fifties.

ADAM

But we have to take into account anything you've done Colin - not just offences that involve kids.

COLIN

(what?)

You saying I can't come to the
seaside?

ADAM

I'm sorry. The Diocesan Child
Protection Officer won't approve
it.

COLIN

But I'm a different person now.

ADAM

I know. I'd take you if I could.
But I can't.

COLIN

I was looking forward to it. You
promised. What about forgiveness
and second chances? You're always
talking about them. But actually
there isn't any forgiveness, is
there? That's the message here.

ADAM falls silent in shame. COLIN gets up.

COLIN

People think you're some hero. Well
you're not a hero to me. You're a
wank stain.

He walks away, morose. ADAM sighs.

19

INT. HEALTH CLUB: STEAM ROOM. DAY 5 (1203) - DAY

19

High end place. Exclusivity. And a great deal of steam.

ADAM enters, in a towel. There's so much steam he squints to
see people. There are the shapes of naked MEN here and there.

A VOICE from out the steam...

ARCHDEACON

Ah is that Captain Underpants?

ADAM

Gosh it's hot.

ARCHDEACON

It is. A Pride of Britain hero no
less.

ADAM sits next to the ARCHDEACON - who is entirely naked. In
contrast ADAM studiously arranges his little towel.

ARCHDEACON

Welcome to my club. Come and perch by me. I want to talk to you in private, and I only have an hour for treatments today.

ADAM

It seems a nice place.

ARCHDEACON

Friendly people.

ADAM

I thought I might get a Renewing Herbal Rubdown.

ARCHDEACON

If you do, I recommend Claudio. If you ask him to he can go very firm and deep.

Another voice from the steam...

ROLAND

Maybe you'll get a hero's discount.

ADAM

Oh hello Roland.

ROLAND

I'm so pleased you took my advice about getting out in the media more.

The ARCHDEACON moves closer for confidentiality - the real purpose of this meeting. Their bodies touch.

ARCHDEACON

I've been talking to the award organisers, I suspect you may in fact be winning your category tomorrow.

That sounds like he's fixed it - or least The Archdeacon wants it to sound like that.

ADAM

Oh. Right.

ARCHDEACON

So I don't want you messing it up. The media time alone's worth 430 grand. Plus the incalculable benefit of the public perceiving vicars to be heroes.

ADAM

The problem is I didn't actually do anything.

ARCHDEACON

No doubt. But this is a great platform for the church. I'll be there personally to guide you through the interviews.

ADAM

Right.

ARCHDEACON

You'll feel my firm hand right behind you. Have you got an outfit? A decent suit? I've never seen you in one.

ADAM

Um. I'll get one.

ROLAND

In your acceptance speech don't forget to thank everybody, especially God and the little lady at home.

ARCHDEACON

And what are we going to do about your hair?

ADAM

It's my hair. It's fine.

ARCHDEACON

No it's not.

The naked ARCHDEACON stands up and turns to face ADAM. ADAM fights for an acceptable eyeline.

ARCHDEACON

See you at the Grosvenor. I need to get going now. I've got tickets to watch David Hare read some of his emails at The National.

The ARCHDEACON leaves.

ROLAND

(to ADAM)

Do you want to borrow my loofah?

ADAM

Thank you so much. Thank you Carol.
Thank you Britain.

He tries a laugh on that line, but stops.

ADAM

When I look at the other nominees,
in many ways I don't feel at all
deserving.

Beat - he pauses - into voiceover -

ADAM (PRAYER V.O.)

I can't do this. This is wrong.
Why've you engineered this Lord?
Let's face it. I didn't do
anything. You know it. I know it...
well just you and I know it. It's
our little secret. And it feels
like a stitch-up.

(he moans)

But it has been quite nice; it's
brought more people into the
church. It's had a good effect all
round. And it's been wonderful with
Alex. She's been a bit down
recently - but she's really
enjoying being my wife this week.
So maybe I'd better just accept
this award. Is that what you want?
Yes? It seems to be what everyone
wants. Yes. Good.

NIGEL comes hopping up the stairs in a state of excitement.

NIGEL (SPLUTTERING SOTTO VOCE)

Adam, Adam - it's the bish it's the
bish... the bish-

ADAM

What's the matter?

NIGEL

The Bishop of London's here.

ADAM and NIGEL enter from the vestry. THE BISHOP OF LONDON is there - in the centre of the nave - surveying the space. He's dressed only in unostentatious black, no purple. The only sign he's a Bishop is a flash of red socks. ADAM is instantly intimidated. NIGEL's beside himself.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON

Hello. I'm looking for the Reverend
Adam Smallbone?

ADAM/NIGEL
That's me/that's him.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON
Is it? Good. How nice to meet you.

The BISHOP knows they know who he is. He offers a hand.
Handshake.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON
I was just passing, and I thought
I'd pop in to have a look at the
cradle of heroism. Meet the man of
Courage inside.

Sold with a genuine smile.

ADAM
Ha.

NIGEL
Can I just say on behalf of all of
us I think you're doing a wonderful
job at the moment.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON
(hasn't come to see Nigel)
Thank you.

NIGEL
I've read all your books on how to
pray, and pass GCSE Religious
Studies.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON
(to get rid of him)
Thank you. Could I possibly have a
cup of tea? Would you mind?

NIGEL
Oh yes, yes, yes, yes.

NIGEL backs off from the BISHOP - reverses like he's leaving
a Royal chamber - almost bows as he goes.

ADAM and the BISHOP share a look. A flash of amusement?

THE BISHOP OF LONDON (CONT'D)
I hope you don't feel imposed upon.
It's so lovely to have a positive
story come across my desk. And I
hear you run a wonderful church.
When you're not making headlines.

ADAM
Well - no. Yes. I try.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON
It's such an inspiring story. You
took this mugger on? It's just so
physically courageous. Incredible
really.

ADAM
I don't deserve any of this.

The BISHOP hears the doubt. Unlike anyone else he responds to it.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON
Really? Tell me what happened? I
want to know every detail.

ADAM
Well um... I was out on the street
(points where)
And this thief snatched this lady's
bag and ran off with it.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON
A-ha.

ADAM
And collided with me. Ran into me
really.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON
I see. And that's when you fought
him?

ADAM
Well... no, we both fell down.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON
And then you used your fighting
skills?

ADAM
Not really.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON
I see. And then what happened?

Beat.

ADAM
And then I helped him onto a bus.
So - you see it's all a mistake -
because nothing really happened. At
all. It's a lie. And now I'm about
to be given an award for heroism.

The BISHOP takes these facts on board.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON

I see. You've got yourself into a bit of a pickle haven't you?

ADAM

The reality is I can barely run a school trip to the seaside because the admin defeats me.

The BISHOP lets ADAM tread towards his own conclusion.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I'm going to have to decline the award aren't I? Or should I accept it? Because it has done a lot of good. In some ways. People want to believe in a good vicar don't they?

THE BISHOP OF LONDON

Yes.

A yes full of qualification and doubt.

ADAM

You're absolutely right - I can't accept it. I'll go to the awards dinner, and decline it. Set the record straight.

The BISHOP stops smiling. Their burst of chumminess over.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON

If you're declining it - wouldn't you want to decline it beforehand?

Beat. ADAM caught. Wants to decline it. Wants to go.

ADAM

Okay, yes, I'll do that.
(beat)

It's just that I promised my wife a night out. And that I'd get Carol Vorderman's autograph for Nigel.

But as he says that he knows he's not going. The BISHOP's face confirms that he's not going.

ADAM

Maybe I could just go to the pre-drinks reception with Alex? She does deserve it.

The BISHOP slowly shakes his head - no.

ADAM

People are going to be so disappointed.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON

Yes. You will have to tell them the truth. And that's where your courage will really be shown.

Beat. ADAM acknowledges that. He nods solemnly. They share a smile at the irony of the situation.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON (CONT'D)

Gloriam praecedit humilitas.

ADAM

Yes. Glory before humility.
(hears himself)

The BISHOP mimes spinning the Latin with his fingers.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON

Before honour goes humility.

ADAM

Oh yes that's right. That's what I think.

Awkward beat - during which ADAM is cross with himself for rushing and messing up his Latin and looking thick.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON

Good luck with your school trip.

Meaning this meeting is over. ADAM's glad it's over.

ADAM

Yes, thank you.

The BISHOP heads back towards the main entrance. He goes.

NIGEL enters with an elaborate tea tray like he's in an E.M. Forster movie.

NIGEL

Where is he? He's gone hasn't he?
Buggeration.

22

EXT. SCHOOL: CAR PARK. DAY 6 (0700) - DAY

22

CLOSE ON: A POSTER OF ADOHA that says 'I'M YOUR CHURCH ADVOCATE' in a school window. Someone's drawn huge tits on her, and a speech bubble that says 'I HAVE PENIS BREATH'.

ADAM, ALEX, ELLIE, and ADOHA in the car park. 7am. Wrapped up for their day out. Exhausted, early feel. (No NIGEL yet). ADOHA and ALEX irritated with ADAM.

ADOHA

I am so angry with you Adam. I had the whole family gathered round the telly. You let me down...

ALEX

The one time I could have worn a dress and had a night out.

ADAM

Forget the stupid award. This is far more important; taking these deprived kids away for a day trip.

NIGEL arrives - kitted out for the day - a tourist meets outdoor adventurer look. A multi-pocket gilet jacket, fun baseball cap and holiday shades. He's got one arm in a sling.

NIGEL

Sorry I'm late. Adam have you got all 45 parental consent forms?

ADAM triumphantly brandishes a thick lever arch file.

ALEX

Nigel what happened to your arm?

NIGEL

Bit of an accident. That's all. Just bad luck.

ELLIE

What happened?

NIGEL

I fell over pulling on my socks. It sounds stupid I know, but actually three people a year die this way. Eight people lose an eye opening champagne.

He sees that no one has any interest/sympathy, so moves on... produces a clip-pad on a chain.

NIGEL

Now I identified a few potential hazards that I think we should run as quick 'what if' scenarios. What if a child chokes on a crisp?

ELLIE

You tell me their name and I'll tell you if they're worth resuscitating.

ALEX

Where are these kids anyway?

ELLIE

I hate to say it Adam, I think
they're going to be a no-show.

ON ADAM - he drops his head. Lets out a deflating sigh like
air from a tyre. All this for nothing. Misery circulates.

ADOHA

No look - here's a couple.

ADAM looks up. CHLOE and COURTNEY are coming across the car
park, chewing bubblegum. He goes to them.

ADAM

Chloe, you came?

CHLOE

Nothing better to do.

ADAM

Great. That's the spirit. Anyone
else coming?

COURTNEY

Dunno.

ADAM

Okay. Well two of you is better
than none. Educate one life, you
educate the world entire.

NIGEL moves into admin mode - waves his clipboard loudly.

NIGEL

On you get children. I'll take all
the names on board.

ADOHA

(to CHLOE)

I've made packed lunches for
everyone. With spiced Yam chapatis.

CHLOE effects vomiting.

THE KIDS get on. ADAM slides the door shut. Just as the bus
is about to leave there's a final last arrival. COLIN appears
at the window with a bag of beers. Bangs on the window.

COLIN

Hang on. Hang on. Got any space?

ADAM

(opens door)

Colin. Get on Colin. Come as one of
the kids.

COLIN

Magic. I've bought tinnies for everyone.

He climbs on, opening a tinny as he goes.

ON: ADAM and ALEX, seated in the minibus.

ADAM

This is nice isn't it? You and me.
In a bus.

ALEX

Other people's kids.

She gives him a look. Can't prevent the hint of a smile.

NIGEL shouts at the two kids.

NIGEL

Do not try and set fire to me you little tike.

ALEX

These kids are awful aren't they?

ADAM

We shouldn't have kids, should we?
If they're anything like this. It's a terrible idea.

ALEX

Yeah it's a terrible idea.

She smiles. Rests her head on his shoulder for the journey?

23

EXT. SCHOOL/STREET. DAY 6 (0702) - DAY

23

The MINIBUS pulls out of the school gates and disappears up the road.

The two KIDS - and COLIN - flick V signs and pull faces out the back window, at a passer-by.

End.